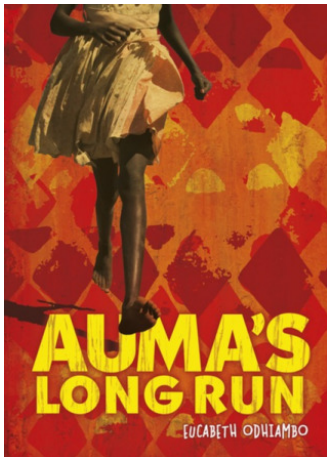




Auma loves to run. In her small Kenyan village, she's a track star with big dreams. A track scholarship could allow her to attend high school and maybe even become a doctor. But a strange new sickness called AIDS is ravaging the village, and when her father becomes ill, Auma's family needs her help at home. Soon more people are getting sick even dying and no one knows why. Now Auma faces a difficult choice. Should she stay to support her struggling family or leave to pursue her own future? Auma knows her family is depending on her, but leaving might be the only way to find the answers to questions about this new disease. (Amazon Summary)



Mrs. Petrin's Review ★★★★★
Amazing debut novel.

Auma's family has enough to get along in her Kenyan village, enough even to help out the community by regularly donating goods and money for the good of all. However, Auma's dreams take her outside of her small village and her hopes lie in her running ability. She dreams of becoming a doctor and taking that knowledge back to her village to save all those who die so young of unnamed illnesses. However, when a mysterious new disease, later to be named as HIV/AIDS, strikes her family, they must rally together just to make ends meet. Will this ruin Auma's chances to leave the community and become a doctor or will she find a way to carry on?

This novel is packed with courage and perseverance, grief and triumph, dreams realized and dreams unheard.

Auma's Long Run is a spectacular novel to help us understand the roots of the HIV/AIDS epidemic but to develop empathy and put ourselves into someone else's shoes. The lives of these Kenyan children is so drastically different than many of the lives American students have. While we all have our trials, few rival those of Auma and her family yet they all find a way to stay determined and continue on. We can all learn a lot from this young lady and Ms. Odhiambo's fresh, authentic voice rings true as she tells Auma's story. A must read!!